

much of the smell; and, seven days afterwards, she began to be ill, took to her bed, and lived just fourteen days.

**SUMMARY.**—Mr. Partridge presents a very favourable report on this district for 1881. Of the total deaths (89), 4 only were due to symptomatic causes, against 14 for 1880. There was also a marked decrease in the infantile mortality, which represented 10.7 per cent. of the total births, and 21.3 per cent. of the deaths. Although the rate for 1881 was the lowest recorded for some years past, Mr. Partridge thinks it higher than it should be in a district so healthily situated, and that the infantile deaths point, with one exception, to a want of care in either nourishment or clothing. Scarlet fever was present in some parts of the district; but the measures adopted by the health-officer prevented any extensive spread of the disease, and no deaths were registered from this cause. The proximity of privies, etc., to wells, is one of the difficulties constantly met with; and, in this connection, the health-officer states, "the convenience of having wells, closets, pigstyes, and drains near to a back door is generally, even by well-informed people, considered before sanitation; and, until illness occurs as a consequence, it is not thought of."

## OBITUARY.

### JOHN LIGERTWOOD PATERSON, F.R.S.E.

THIS accomplished and greatly esteemed physician died at Bahia, Brazil, a few weeks ago. Dr. Paterson was born in Midmar, Aberdeenshire, in 1820, and was educated at the Grammar School and Marischal College of Aberdeen, where he graduated as Master of Arts. He acted as assistant to the then Professor of Anatomy in Marischal College, and afterwards took the degree of M.D., and the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He studied at Vienna and Paris, afterwards settled for several years in Pernambuco, from whence he removed to Bahia, where he practised for more than a quarter of a century, and during all that time he never quitted Bahia even for a week's holiday. He returned to Edinburgh several years ago, and devoted some time to attending practical classes. A short time ago he returned to Bahia to attend his brother who, while there, was attacked by paralysis. During this visit to Brazil, Dr. Paterson died. Dr. Paterson was a man of kindly, genial, and warm sympathies, and he lived on the most friendly terms with the native practitioners, by all of whom he was greatly esteemed, and to whose consultations he was invariably called.

### FRANCIS GOODCHILD, M.B.(LOND.), M.R.C.S.

THE early and sudden death of Mr. Francis Goodchild, M.B.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., at his residence, Heathfield House, Ealing, has given much sorrow to a large circle of friends to whom he had, in a comparatively short period of time, endeared himself. Born in June 1854, at Heathfield House, Ealing, his career was one of promise. Educated under the care of the Rev. J. Summerhayes, in Ealing, he then went to Marlborough College, and subsequently to the Medical College at Epsom. He there won numerous prizes for scientific and literary attainments, and was also distinguished in athletics, holding the challenge cup for one year. After matriculating at London University, he entered St. George's Hospital, which he quitted to help his father in carrying on his practice in this locality. His premature demise was due to the inhalation of chloroform, which, there is little doubt, he had been accustomed for some time past to inhale as a remedy for insomnia, and hence the fatal accident which terminated his days. Mr. Goodchild, who was a partner of Mr. C. A. Patten, had only recently been proposed by that gentleman as a new member of the British Medical Association.

## MEDICO-LEGAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

### MEDICO-LEGAL FEES ABROAD.

THE fees for medical opinions in a British court of law are hardly in proportion to the trouble which medical evidence entails on the skilled witness, but at least we do not hear of a fee being curtailed after the doctor has been once paid at the court itself. In a remote part of Bohemia, says the *Casopis Lékařů Českých* (a journal written in the language of a nationality that can claim Skoda, Czermak, Czerny, Rokitsansky, and other medical men who have done everything calculated to elevate the status of their profession in the eyes of their countrymen), an ophthalmic surgeon received a writ to examine the injured eye of a plaintiff, and to report upon the case.

He took great pains with the patient, using the ophthalmoscope, and giving a careful and well considered opinion in court. He then claimed two florins for the examination of the case, and three florins for the opinion, and the clerk of the court paid the witness five florins, without hesitation. Next day the ophthalmic surgeon received a peremptory order from the court, demanding that he should return three florins ninety kreuzer within three days, as he had made an exorbitant claim. This incident might literally expose the British practitioner to "the envy of less happier states;" but, on the other hand, if comparisons between English legal authorities, and Austrian officials in their relation to medical witnesses, seem odious, the difference between their ideas of liberality is not so very wide.

### ALCOHOLIC TEMPERANCE DRINKS.

A SERIOUS blow to total abstinence was inflicted in the Queen's Bench Division on Tuesday, before Mr. Baron Pollock and Mr. Baron Huddleston, in the case of Leah, appellant, v. Minns, respondent. The respondent was summoned before the justices at Nottingham for having sold Summer's Botanic Beer without having a beer license. The justices dismissed the charge, and it was this decision that was now appealed against. The botanic beer was made of herbs and sugar, and contained 5.80 per cent. of proof spirit. In Bass's pale ale there was from 10 to 12 per cent. of proof spirit; in ordinary table beer from 2½ to 8 per cent., and in lager beer from 10 to 12 per cent. An analysis of other bottles of botanic beer showed less than 5 per cent. of proof spirits, and an analysis of ginger beer sold at a halfpenny per bottle contained a similar quantity of spirit. Mr. A. L. Smith appeared for the Commissioners of Inland Revenue; Mr. R. S. Wright for the respondent. The Court said that the information was laid under the 4 and 5 William IV., and they thought that since then various things had been sanctioned for the brewing of beer; yet this botanic beer did not come within any definition of beer. The respondent had been summoned for a penal offence, and they must not extend the law so as to bring him within it. The appeal was dismissed with costs. We doubt the accuracy of the estimate of 5 per cent. of alcohol in ginger beer. If it be at all correct, the total abstainers have been imbibing for years abundance of alcoholic liquor, in spite of their wishes and intentions.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

- ARMAGH UNION, Blackwatertown Dispensary.—Medical Officer. Salary, £140 per annum, with fees. Election on the 15th instant.
- CAMBRIDGE COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Fulbourn.—Resident Medical Superintendent. Salary, £500 per annum. Applications by March 16th.
- CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY SOCIETIES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Principal Medical Officer. Salary, £175 per annum. Applications to Mr. W. P. Littlechild, 5, Queen's Lane, Cambridge, by March 23rd.
- CARLISLE DISPENSARY.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications to Mr. John Ostell, Honorary Secretary, 14, Bank Street, Carlisle.
- CHICHESTER INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon and Secretary. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by April 7th.
- EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Shadwell.—Resident Clinical Assistant. Applications by March 22nd.
- GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road, N.—House-Surgeon.—Salary, £203 per annum. Applications by March 22nd.
- GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road, N.—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Applications by March 17th.
- HARTLEPOOL FRIENDLY SOCIETIES MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum. Applications to J. Tweddell, 12, Albion Terrace, Hartlepool.
- KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon. Salary £20 per annum. Application by March 23rd.
- LIVERPOOL NORTHERN HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum. Applications by March 31st.
- MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY, DISPENSARY, AND LUNATIC HOSPITAL OR ASYLUM.—Honorary Assistant-Physician. Applications by March 31st.
- MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, W.—Assistant Dental Surgeon. Applications by March 10th.
- NOTTINGHAM DISPENSARY.—Resident Surgeon. Salary, £200 per annum. Applications by March 22nd.
- PARISH OF ST. MARY, ISLINGTON.—Resident Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser of Medicines. Salary, £100 per annum. Applications by March 13th.
- STAMFORD HILL AND STOKE NEWINGTON DISPENSARY.—Honorary Surgeon. Applications to the Honorary Secretary, Dispensary, Stoke Newington, by March 18th.
- SPALDING UNION.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £51 per annum. Applications, by March 10th.